

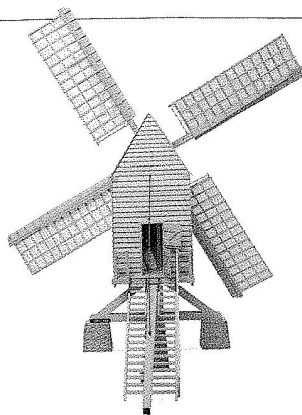
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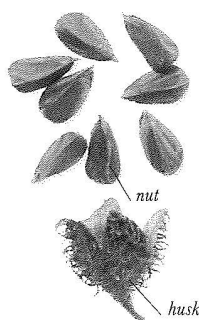
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mast

mast¹ /mast/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a long upright post of timber, iron, etc., set up from a ship's keel or deck, esp. to support sails. > **DINGHY, SAILBOAT** 2 a post or latticework upright for supporting a radio or television antenna. 3 a flagpole (*half-mast*). ● *v.* *tr.* furnish (a ship) with masts. □ **masted** *adj.* (also in *comb.*). **master** *n.* (also in *comb.*).



MAST: BEECH
MAST

mast² /mast/ *n.* ◀ the fruit of the beech, oak, chestnut, and other forest trees, esp. as food for pigs.

mas-ta-ba /mástəbə/ *n.* 1 *Archaeol.* an ancient Egyptian tomb with sloping sides and a flat roof. 2 a bench, usu. of stone, attached to a house in Islamic countries.

mas-tec-to-my /mástektə-mee/ *n.* (pl. -ies) *Surgery* the removal of breast tissue.

mas-ter /mástər/ *n.*, *adj.*, & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a person having control of persons or things. 2 an employer, esp. of a servant. 3 a male head of a household (*master of the house*). 4 the owner of a dog, horse, etc. 5 the owner of a slave. 6 *Naut.* the captain of a merchant ship. 7 *Hunting* the person in control of a pack of hounds, etc. 2 esp. *Brit.* a male teacher or tutor, esp. a schoolmaster. 3 a the head of a private school, etc. 4 the presiding officer of a Masonic lodge, etc. 5 a person who has or gets the upper hand. 6 a person skilled in a particular trade and able to teach others (often *attrib.* *master carpenter*). 7 a holder of a university degree orig. giving authority to teach in the university (*Master of Arts*). 8 a revered teacher in philosophy, etc. 9 *Chess*, etc., a player of proven ability at international level. 10 an original version (e.g., of a film or audio recording) from which copies can be made. 11 (**Master**) a title prefixed to the name of a boy not old enough to be called Mr. (*Master T. Jones*; *Master Tom*). 12 a machine or device directly controlling another (cf. *SLAVE* 4). ● *adj.* 1 commanding, superior (a *master spirit*). 2 main; principal (*master bedroom*). 3 controlling others (*master plan*). ● *v.* *tr.* 1 overcome; defeat. 2 reduce to subjection. 3 acquire complete knowledge of (a subject) or facility in using (an instrument, etc.). 4 rule as a master. □ **be master of** 1 have at one's disposal. 2 know how to control. **be one's own master** be independent or free to do as one wishes. □ **master-less** *adj.* **master-ship** /mástərʃɪp/ *n.*

master-ful /mástərfoʊl/ *adj.* 1 imperious; domineering. 2 masterly. ¶ Normally used of a person, whereas *masterly* is used of achievements, abilities, etc. □ **master-ful-ly** *adv.* **master-ful-ness** *n.*

master key *n.* a key that opens several locks, each of which also has its own key.

master-ly /mástərlee/ *adj.* worthy of a master; very skillful (a *masterly piece of work*). □ **master-li-ness** *n.*

master-mind /mástərmɪnd/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a person with an outstanding intellect. 2 such an intellect. 2 the person directing an intricate operation. ● *v.* *tr.* plan and direct (a scheme or enterprise).

master-piece /mástərpees/ *n.* 1 an outstanding piece of artistry or workmanship. 2 a person's best work.

master-stroke *n.* an outstandingly skillful act of policy, etc.

master switch *n.* a switch controlling the supply of electricity, etc., to an entire system.

master-work *n.* a masterpiece.

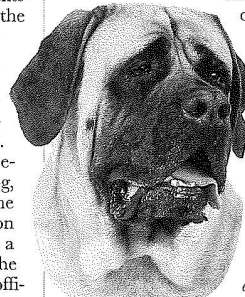
master-y /mástəree/ *n.* 1 dominion; sway. 2 masterly skill. 3 (often foll. by *of*) comprehensive knowledge or use of a subject or instrument. 4 (prec. by *the*) the upper hand.

mast-head /mást-hed/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 the highest part of a ship's mast, esp. as a place of observation or punishment. 2 a the title of a newspaper, etc., at the head of the front or editorial page. b the printed notice in a newspaper, magazine, etc., giving details of staff, ownership, etc. ● *v.* *tr.* 1 send (a sailor) to the masthead. 2 raise (a sail) to its position on the mast.

mas-tic /mástik/ *n.* 1 a gum or resin exuded from the bark of the mastic tree, used in making varnish. 2 (in full **mas-tic tree**) the evergreen tree, *Pistacia lentiscus*, yielding this. 3 a waterproof filler and sealant used in building. 4 a liquor flavored with mastic gum.

mas-ti-cate /mástikayt/ *v.* *tr.* grind or chew (food) with one's teeth. □ **mas-ti-ca-tion** /-káyshən/ *n.*

mas-ti-ca-to-ry /-katáwree/ *adj.*



MASTIFF

mas-tiff /mástif/ *n.* 1 ◀ a dog of a large strong breed with drooping ears and pendulous lips. 2 this breed of dog.

mas-titis /mástitis/ *n.* an inflammation of the mammary gland in the breast or udder.

mas-to-don /mástədon/ *n.* a large extinct mammal of the genus *Mammot*, resembling the elephant. □

mas-to-don-tic /-dóntik/ *adj.*

mas-toid /mástoyd/ *n.* 1 a conical prominence on the bone behind the ear, to which muscles

are attached. > *EAR*, 2 *colloq.* mastoiditis.

mas-toid-i-tis /mástoyditis/ *n.* inflammation of the mastoid process.

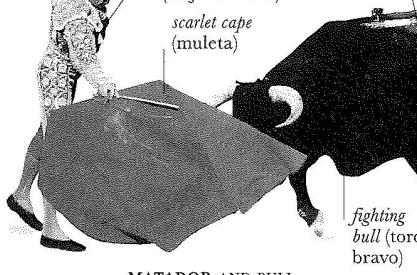
mas-tur-bate /mástərbayt/ *v.* *intrans.* & *tr.* arouse oneself sexually or cause (another person) to be aroused by manual stimulation of the genitals. □ **mas-tur-ba-tion** /-báyshən/ *n.* **mas-tur-ba-tor** *n.* **mas-tur-ba-to-ry** /-tərbátáwree/ *adj.*

mat¹ /mat/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a piece of coarse material for wiping shoes on, esp. a doormat. 2 a piece of cork, rubber, plastic, etc., to protect a surface from the heat or moisture of an object placed on it. 3 a piece of resilient material for landing on in gymnastics, wrestling, etc. 4 a piece of coarse fabric of plaited rushes, straw, etc., for lying on, packing furniture, etc. 5 a small rug. ● *v.* (**matted**, **matting**) 1 a *tr.* (esp. as **matted** *adj.*) entangle in a thick mass (*matted hair*). 2 *intr.* become matted. 2 *tr.* cover or furnish with mats.

mat² *var.* of **MATTE**¹.

mat³ /mat/ *n.* = **MATRIX** 1.

mat-a-dor /mátədwɔr/ *n.* ▼ a bullfighter whose task is to kill the bull.



MATADOR AND BULL

match¹ /mach/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a contest or game in which persons or teams compete against each other. 2 a a person able to contend with another as an equal (*meet one's match*). 3 a person equal to

another in some quality (*we shall never see his match*). 4 a person or thing exactly like or corresponding to his or her eligibility for marriage (an excellent match). ● *v.* 1 a *tr.* be equal to or harmonious with (*the curtains match the wallpaper*). 2 *intr.* (often foll. by *with*) correspond; harmonize (*his socks do not match; does the ribbon match with your hat?*). 3 (as **matching** *adj.*) having correspondence in some essential respect (*matching curtains*). 4 *tr.* (foll. by *against*, *with*) place (a person, etc.) in conflict, contest, or competition with (another). 5 *tr.* find material, etc., that matches (another) (*can you match this silk?*). 6 *tr.* find a person or thing suitable for another (*matching unemployed workers to available jobs*). 7 *tr.* prove to be a match for. 8 **make a match** bring about a marriage. 9 **to match** corresponding in some essential respect with what has been mentioned (*yellow dress with gloves to match*). □ **match-able** *adj.*

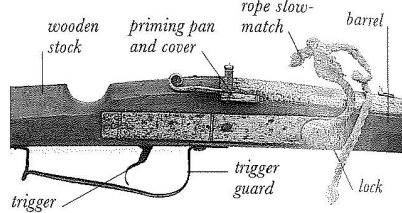
match² /mach/ *n.* 1 a short thin piece of flammable material tipped with a composition that can be ignited by friction. 2 a piece of wick, cord, etc., designed to burn at a uniform rate, for firing a cannon, etc.

match-board /máchbawrd/ *n.* a board with a tongue cut along one edge and a groove along another, so as to fit with similar boards.

match-box /máchbɒks/ *n.* a box for holding matches.

match-less /máchlis/ *adj.* without an equal; incomparable. □ **match-less-ly** *adv.*

match-lock /máchlok/ *n.* *hist.* 1 ▼ an old type of gun with a lock in which a match was placed for igniting the powder. 2 such a lock.



MATCHLOCK: 17TH-CENTURY
GERMAN MATCHLOCK

match-maker /máchmaykər/ *n.* a person who tries to arrange an agreement or relationship between two parties, esp. a marriage partnership. □ **match-making** *n.*

match point *n.* *Tennis*, etc. 1 the state of a game when one side needs only one more point to win the match. 2 this point.

match-stick /máchstik/ *n.* the stem of a match.

match-wood /máchwööd/ *n.* 1 wood suitable for matches. 2 minute splinters.

mate¹ /mayt/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a friend or fellow worker. 2 a each of a pair, esp. of animals, birds, or socks. 3 *colloq.* a partner in marriage. 4 (in *comb.*) a fellow member or joint occupant of (*teammate*; *roommate*). 5 *Naut.* an officer on a merchant ship subordinate to the master. 6 an assistant to a skilled worker (*plumber's mate*). ● *v.* (often foll. by *with*) 1 a *tr.* bring (animals or birds) together for breeding. 2 *intr.* (of animals or birds) come together for breeding. 3 a *tr.* join (persons) in marriage. 4 *intr.* (of persons) be joined in marriage. 5 *intr.* *Mech.* fit well. □

mate-less *adj.*

mate² /mayt/ *n.* & *v.* *tr.* *Chess* = **CHECK-MATE**.

maté /mátay/ *n.* 1 an infusion of the leaves of a S. American shrub, *Ilex paraguayensis*. 2 this shrub, or its leaves. 3 a vessel in which these leaves are infused.

M